

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)PAGE 01 CARACA 12451 01 OF 02 271800Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	EUR-01	FBO-01	HA-09
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPR-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SSC-01	SS-00	SVC-00	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00
	USSS-00	ASDS-01	RPE-00	/081W			

-----7F7981 271810Z /43

O 271803Z NOV 92 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5753
INFO ARA COLLECTIVE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 12451

NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MARR, ASEC, PGOV, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: COUP ATTEMPT/WHERE WE STAND,
EARLY AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 27

REF: CARACAS 12446 AND PREVIOUS

SECRET

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PAGE 02 CARACA 12451 01 OF 02 271800Z
1. SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. VENEZUELA HAS AGAIN BEEN THROWN INTO TURMOIL BY A COUP ATTEMPT. PLOTTING HAS BEEN NEARLY-CONTINUOUS SINCE MARCH; TODAY, ONE OF THE PLOTS FINALLY BORE FRUIT. AS WE WRITE, GUNFIRE IS STILL INTERMITTENTLY HEAVY NEAR THE EMBASSY; THE BIGGEST BATTLE OF THE REBELLION APPEARS TO BE TAKING PLACE, JUST AS IN THE FEBRUARY 4 ATTEMPT, AT NEARBY LA CARLOTA AIRFIELD. SOME SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES FROM LAST TIME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 26 NOV 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 12 APR 2007 200503206

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-- THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REBEL TROOPS INVOLVED APPEARS (BY WHAT WE KNOW INITIALLY) TO HAVE BEEN PROBABLY SMALLER THAN IN FEBRUARY, DUE TO THE CHANGE IN THE ARMY'S ROLE.

-- THIS TIME, THE REBELS DID GET THEIR MESSAGE ON TELEVISION; LAST TIME, THEY FAILED TO DO SO. THE REBELS CALLED EXPLICITLY FOR OTHER MILITARY TO JOIN THEM, AND FOR A POPULAR REBELLION. DESPITE THE TV AND RADIO PUBLICITY, THE POPULACE IN CARACAS HAS BY-AND-LARGE FAILED TO SUPPORT THE REBELS; WE HAVE FRAGMENTARY REPORTS OF POT-BANGING AND FLAG-WAVING IN SUPPORT OF THE REBELS IN SOME NEIGHBORHOODS. ARMED, FIGHTING SUPPORT BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE REBELS HAS NOT BEEN A FACTOR.

-- THIS TIME, THE REBELS WERE NOT AS SUCCESSFUL OR WIDESPREAD IN THEIR PROVINCIAL EFFORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SITUATION IN MARACAIBO IS REPORTEDLY NORMAL; IN FEBRUARY, REBELS VIRTUALLY CONTROLLED THE CITY ALL MORNING. VALENCIA (IN REBEL HANDS IN FEBRUARY) WAS GENERALLY CALM TODAY. MARACAY (IN REBEL HANDS IN FEBRUARY) WAS IN LOYALIST HANDS THIS TIME, EXCEPT FOR THE LIBERTADOR BASE ITSELF. THIS AGAIN RESULTS FROM ABSENCE OF IMPORTANT ARMY

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SUPPORT FOR (##)
RESIGNATION OR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WHICH HAD DROPPED
OFF THE RADAR SCREEN, WILL BE BACK AGAIN. WE WOULD LIKE
TO HOPE THAT THE IMPRESSION MADE BY TODAY'S ATTEMPT WILL
BE THAT A SMALL GROUP OF OFFICERS ENGAGED IN AN

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NOTE: (##) OMISSION CORRECTION TO FOLLOW

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	SR-00	SSC-01	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSH-00
	ASDS-01	RPE-00	/081W				

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: MARR, ASEC, PGOV, CASC, VE

SUBJECT: COUP ATTEMPT/WHERE WE STAND,

"ADVENTURE" THAT WAS AND SHOULD BE ALIEN TO THE COUNTRY'S
REAL LIFE. BUT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE MEMORY OF
AIRCRAFT CIRCLING AND BOMBING, AND THE CRACK OF GUNFIRE
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ECHOING THROUGHOUT THE CITY, WILL BE WHAT LINGERS BOTH
HERE AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE PRESTIGE OF THE GOV AND OF
THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN GENERAL HAS SUFFERED ANOTHER
BLOW. AND, INDEED, THE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND PRESS
BEAR A SHARE OF THE BLAME. WITH THEIR CONSTANT BARRAGE OF
EFFORTS TO BRING THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT DOWN, THEY
HELPED CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH MILITARY PERSONNEL
INVOLVED THOUGHT THAT ANOTHER COUP ATTEMPT MIGHT SUCCEED,
WHEREAS THE INITIAL EFFORT IN FEBRUARY HAD FAILED.
FELDER

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